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Bangalore Mirror

TEMP Max 28 | Min 20 | Humidity 70% Scattered Thunderstorms Sensex 65,617 | Nifty 19,439 | Gold 58,810 | Silver 71,402 | Dollar 82.44 | Euro 90.60 | GBP 106.39

DO, UNDO

Part of white-topped road removed to build park

PAGE 4

THIS IS EAT

August gathering? Please wait for food street tad longer

PAGE 5

Locality can't breathe easy due to vehicles from tech park parked all over the road and youngsters making area a hub for smoking/drinking

CLUTTER OUT OF CONTROL

Issue was raised with authorities in 2018, but no reprieve so far

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Residents of Krishnappa Garden have been running from pillar to post urging authorities concerned to fix their problems for the last six years but it has all been in vain. Krishnappa Garden is a small locality snuggled between BEML Estate and Bagmane Tech Park in CV Raman Nagar. The residents here spent money to fill potholes on the roads themselves and to clear up the wild weeds along the road. But they have not been able to fix the myriad of issues due to misuse of the entrance of their locality. Parked vehicles, and youngsters huddling together for their smoke breaks are common sights here.

A visit to the spot will make you wonder how come so many vehicles are allowed to park on the road. These vehicles are meant for use by people working at the Bagmane Tech Park. One can also spot empty alcohol and plastic bottles lying in the empty space adjacent to the compound wall.

"It has become tough for women to walk on the road. While half of

CONTINUED ON PAGE 8 »

Empty liquor bottles in the vacant space along the compound wall. Vehicles parked on the road that connects to Krishnappa Garden

"I have complained to the police as well as the BBMP but they did nothing to mitigate our problems. The police at Baiyappanahalli are not interested in patrolling this area

– N Devaraju, President, Krishnappa Garden Residents Association

Danger street

400 people lost their lives to road accidents in 6 months; 2-wheeler riders, pedestrians worst-hit

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It has been a gory six months of the year on the city's roads. According to traffic police data, over 400 people lost their lives in road accidents in Bengaluru in that period.

The data says that as of Jun 2023, 416 people were killed in accidents. This shows that on an average about 70 people are dying every month in road accidents.

A total of 2,354 accidents were reported in 2023, of which 405 were fatal and 1,949 were non-fatal.

The data shows that 2,049 people got injured in road accidents this year.

MN Anucheth, joint commissioner of police, traffic, says that traffic police has done a study of so-called black spots, as per the guidelines of NHAI and identified spots where fatalities happen or grievous injuries are reported.

The police have identified 63 black spots in the city.

"We have analysed the accidents of the past three years and there are two major findings that two segments of road-users are involved in most accidents -- two-wheelers and pedestrians. We have come across several cases of pedestrians dying in accidents as they cross the road and motorists on two-wheelers getting involved in road accidents," said Anucheth.

In 2023, 32,92,757 cases were booked

CONTINUED ON PAGE 8 »

3 THINGS TO DO

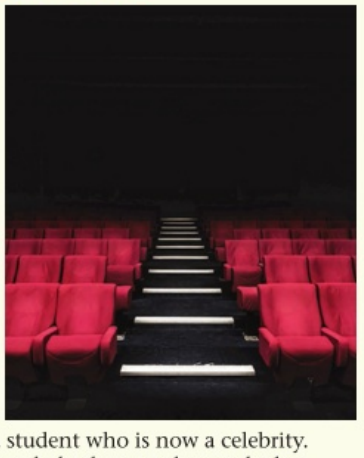
01 Creative goods

The Grand Rajasthani Exhibition is all set to feature some of the collections of cotton and silk handlooms from Karnataka tie and dye dress material, Odisha sarees, and West Bengal cotton sarees. The variety of handlooms includes jewellery (silver, kundan, and meenakari), textiles, handmade paper, precious and semi-precious stones (gemstones), paintings, and more.
Where: White House, No. 4B, 14th Main Road, next to BDA Complex, Sector 6, HSR Layout
When: until July 13

02 Art collection

The Hotel Royal Orchid Bangalore is collaborating with the Jeevarathni Foundation, a charitable organisation, to organise a three-day art exhibition. The exhibition is titled as Lifescapes and is being presented by artist Kanchan Rathna. The collection of art explores the wonders of nature, the joys of human connection, and more.
Where: Hotel Royal Orchid Bangalore, Old Airport Road; When: July 15 and 16; 11 am–8 pm

03 Theatre love



Grab the chance to watch a play that explores the relationship between a guru and his student. Written by Priyam Jani and directed by Aashish Rana, Digdarshak is about a theatre director and a student who is now a celebrity. Their differences help them understand what caused a drift during their earlier days.
Where: Vyoma ArtSpace and Studio Theatre
When: Saturday, July 15

Money talks in the school

City schools take up initiatives to create better sense of financial literacy among students; say it will help them make appropriate choices while valuing money

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In their bid to make students future-ready, many city schools have resorted to novel ways to impart financial skills to them.

From establishing financial literacy clubs to organising informative sessions on money management and introducing financial skills training to the curriculum, these schools are not leaving any stone unturned in making their students investment savvy.

Schools say children of today will eventually have to take charge of their finances, and thus, schools must make them aware of various aspects of money management. Moreover, there is a general lack of understanding about how money works in our society, and thus schools must imbibe in children the knowledge about financial literacy at an early age.

To encourage students to learn skills to manage personal finances and understand resources available for financial well-being, Canadian International School (CIS) has come up with a financial literacy club. The initiative helps members of the local community gain skills and knowledge that would help them get a better sense of financial literacy.

The club aimed to educate its members on various topics related to personal finance that would help them lead a more financially stable life.

"Students who participated in this club also gained a wider awareness of their understanding of finances and the systems that may benefit them in the long run. They became aware of a societal need and took steps to remedy it with the help of their research and skills. Helping students understand the value of nurturing, challenging, and empowering others helps our community spread our vision," said Shweta Sastri, managing director, Canadian International School.

Some schools say the easiest way to help kids get the hang of money market is by introducing financial awareness sessions

> **"At our school, financial literacy is a mandatory programme for grade VII students**
> –Anita Bijesh

Some schools say the easiest way to help children get the hang of the money market is by introducing financial awareness sessions as part of the school curriculum, just like any other subject. "We have financial literacy sessions as part of our curriculum, and we are educating them with real-world examples, so they are well equipped with good spending and borrowing practices. There are multiple reasons why financial literacy classes can help students right out of school. Students will be wiser to understand the importance of money, track day-to-day expenses, gain insights into financial policies, banking and financial budgeting, and financial issues, and will make appropriate choices while valuing money," said Louis Lopez, principal, Greenwood School. Schools are bringing in subject matter experts too to help students learn about aspects of the financial world such as various investment plans, banking processes, credit and debit cards, and taxes.

Delhi Public School (South) is guiding its students towards financial literacy through awareness sessions for students starting in class VII.

"At our school, financial literacy is a mandatory programme for grade VII students. We developed our modules, and since the children are young, we start with the barter system and gradually move to the evolution of trade and currencies. For students of higher classes (Class X to XII), we engage professionals to conduct awareness sessions on various aspects of the financial world, which include banking and its importance, security of funds, the digital banking process, SIPs, etc. We educate them through case studies," said Anita Bijesh, principal, Delhi Public School (South).

Some city schools affiliated with the Central Board of Secondary Education said at the same time that the board has introduced optional short-duration modules related to financial literacy this academic year, the initiative taken by them is independent of CBSE's programme.

"The module on financial literacy offered by CBSE is optional and forms one of the skill-based courses being offered by the board. However, in our school, it is mandatory for students to take sessions on financial literacy," said a city-based CBSE school.

Government focuses on family planning

As part of World Population Day on Tuesday, a set of various awareness activities were carried out by the Health and Family Welfare Department. The awareness programme carried out by the department will focus on different categories that include healthy spacing between births, postpartum family planning, male participation in family planning, and post-abortion family planning.

The Health Minister of Karnataka, Dinesh Gundu Rao, inaugurated the World Population Day events at the Arogya Soudha on Tuesday. The main concept behind initiating the awareness drive is to focus on achieving population stabilisation goals, promoting reproductive health, reducing maternal and infant mortality rates, and strengthening men's participation in family planning.

This year's slogan on World Population Day was "On the occasion of Azadi ka Amrit Mahotsav, let us take a pledge to adopt family planning as a choice for happiness and prosperity."

According to HFW officials, there will be awareness carried out in two categories: one mobilisation fortnight (Dampati Sampark Pakhwada) from June 27 to July 10, 2023, and the other population stabilisation fortnight (Jansankhya Sthirata Pakhwada) from July 11 to July 24, 2023.

The activities that will be involved during the mobilisation fortnight include information education commission (IEC) activities for generating awareness through media and other digital platforms. Apart from this, mobile publicity vans may be arranged at the district level and in blocks to move from village to village, spreading the message on family planning.

All the district-level health officials and block-level officers, along with nurses and panchayat officials, should take up regular meetings to discuss how to spread awareness positively.

ASHA workers should also be involved in undertaking counselling and door-to-door delivery of contraceptives.

Activities during the population sterilisation fortnight include female sterilisation methods like minilap tubectomy, laparoscopic sterilisation, and post-partum post abortion sterilisation. Awareness about temporary methods of family planning like condoms and oral

pills will be given. Emergency pills and other pills, like Malla N and Chhaya tablets, that are new contraceptives, are also provided.

Under the family welfare programme, the department has procured a total of 153 laparoscopes and accessories, 737 NSV kits, 2,000 MVA kits, 986 Minilap kits, 3,523 IUCD kits, and 2,300 PPIUCD kits that have been supplied to districts from 2016–17 to 2021–22. **— BMB**

Accident raises road safety question here

Residents say Doddakannelli-Chikkanayakanahalli is quite prone to accidents

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A harrowing accident was reported on the Doddakannelli-Chikkanaya kanahalli road on Sunday at 12 pm, causing a scare among the residents who live nearby. According to them, the place has witnessed many accidents in the past few months, but they have gone unreported.

The residents state that the stretch has a curved bend at the start of the road, and only one part of the road is in good condition. The rest of it reportedly has potholes, and on one side, the road has even come apart. Although this is an interior road, many commuters who travel through this stretch are found speeding too.

The stretch is said to connect Chikkanayakanahalli and Gattahalli village and can further connect to Electronic City, making it a popularly used route.

The stretch where the accident took place on Sunday at 12 in the afternoon

Recovered CCTV footage showed a two-wheeler rider, sitting on his bike parked on one side of the road, starting his vehicle and riding in the wrong direction – all while not wearing a helmet. Within no time, a speeding bike with a pillion rider came from the other end and crashed into his bike. The rider who not wearing a helmet succumbed to the injuries.

Many residents were left shocked by the accident. The members of Citizens Movement East Bengaluru notified the Bellandur traffic police and asked for immediate measures to be taken such as the installation of signboards and road humps on the stretch.

A member from Citizens Movement East Bengaluru said, "Many residents here have revealed that the two-wheeler and four-wheeler riders passing through this stretch ride at full speed. Additionally, this place has many potholes. We met with the traffic police officials to install a signboard near the start of the road, indicating the curved bend and the need to slow down. A speed limit sign should also be installed."

Apart from this, the residents revealed that this is a narrow stretch, and according to the state government's plans, the road needs to be widened. "The former MLA Arvind Limbavali, in his manifesto during the previous years, had mentioned road widening in this stretch. The stretch is important as it connects to the Huskur market and Electronic City. However, many years have passed, and the widening has not started," added a member from Citizens Movement East Bengaluru.

> **"The stretch is important as it connects to the Huskur market and Electronic City** – member of Citizens Movement East Bengaluru

Additionally, most of them emphasised the need for wearing helmets. "If the rider was wearing a good helmet, it might have saved his life. It is very important to wear a helmet even if they are riding for a short distance. Despite carrying out many awareness campaigns, the traffic police's efforts are ignored by many of us."

Can medians mitigate this 'crossing crisis'?

Outer Ring Road often sees jaywalking accidents

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Traffic police have installed High-rise pedestrian crossing (HRPC) centre medians on a blackspot of 700 metres in Outer Ring Road (ORR) near Rajkumar Samadhi.

The Deputy Commissioner of Police, Traffic, North Division, Sachin Ghorpade, said that this step was taken to prevent pedestrians getting into accidents.

"Because it is the ORR, a lot of people cross from one side to the other carelessly. So, in order to avoid indiscriminate crossing, we had to install the same. The installation is across a stretch of 700 metres and comes after a string of accidents that have taken place here. This year alone there were six deaths and around 16 road accidents in the area,

which could also have been fatal. We have created zebra crossings at two places," said Sachin.

While some residents were concerned about the height of the median, saying that people can jump over it, the DCP clarified that it is about four feet tall.

"it's not easy to cross a wall that is four feet tall in the middle of the road. There are gaps in between where we have allowed people to cross. In some places there are gaps because some kind of electric pole or telephone pole is there. For that, we will be looking at other mechanisms to block it," he added.

The DCP also said that work is being done to install pelican signals.

"Pelican signals are basically used when people want to cross the road and can push a button. The button then turns red. These signals will be installed where we have marked zebra crossing," he said.

It has already been installed in several places, and in places where it is not available, police are taking action. "Even on the airport road, there were problems, so it was installed. The area comes under National Highway Authority of India, and they have installed grills, which are quite high - around six feet," he added.

Expert extortionist caught

Police shot a robber early in the morning on June 11 in the Sadashivanagar police station limits.

The accused has been identified as 26-year-old Yasser Sultan. He was shot in the leg by the police and is reportedly a notorious criminal, wanted by the police in connection with more than seven cases. Yasser used to attack and rob unsuspecting citizens and carried weapons. He was an expert at extortion ever since he was a minor and police had been on the lookout for him.

On Tuesday morning, he tried to escape from the police near Palace Road. He even tried to attack the police who went to catch him with a handgun. At that time, a Sadashivanagar inspector shot him in the right leg while defending himself. A case has been registered in Sadashivanagar police station in this regard and Yasser has been arrested. —BMB

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NEET 2023
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MARKS 650 AND ABOVE 22 STUDENTS
MARKS 600 AND ABOVE 79 STUDENTS
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Sort out your priorities!

BBMP removes portion of recently white-topped stretch to construct park in Malleswaram; baffled residents struggle with shrunken road, commotion

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KAUSHIK JN

Ongoing work by the BBMP is troubling residents and commuters around Mantri Circle; the civic body had reportedly taken up white topping work at a cost of Rs 15.4 crore per kilometre over eight months ago

The Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) has started removing a portion of a recently white topped road in Malleswaram in order to build a park in the vicinity. Residents and locals who use the road are enraged over the same.

The Palike had white topped roads around Mantri circle over eight months ago - meaning the work is still fresh. However, the civic body has now started to dig a portion on the same stretch to build a park in the neighbourhood. Residents are fuming at the municipal body for not planning their projects beforehand as white topping is an expensive and time consuming process. They had taken up the white topping work at a cost of Rs 15.4 crore per kilometre.

"The road is now very narrow, and since it is a very busy stretch, it causes a lot of commotion among motorists. The BBMP should have taken construction of the park into consideration even before white topping the road as they are very much aware that it burns a hole in their pocket," Ranganath, a local resident, said. He added that the white topping work took weeks before it could be completed.

"They will probably take another year to complete this project and restore the roads to normalcy. It is the residents who will have to deal with the hassle and face the consequences of poor coordination within the BBMP," he said.

Lakshmi, a commuter, said that a bus stop in the area has also 'vanished' due to the ongoing work. "The bus stop was right where the stretch is being dug up. We are now having to wait on the road which witnesses a lot of traffic, leaving us in a spot," she said, questioning if the park project was even necessary in the first place. "The BBMP must prioritise their projects and leave out new ones that require older projects to be compromised. Especially in cases of white topping as they require a lot of time to be dug up and restored. They create an extra burden on the municipal body. Instead, newer alternatives can be thought out," she added.

> **"The bus stop was right where the stretch is being dug up. We are having to wait on the road which witnesses a lot of traffic** – Lakshmi, commuter

Time to tree-t them better

'Unauthorised attempt' to axe tree in Hebbal sparks talks on better safe-keeping

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Irked by an unauthorised attempt to axe a tree by a private educational institute in Hebbal, residents of the locality have reached out to the Forest Department of the Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP).

They allege that there have been at least two incidents of trees being chopped illegally on the institute's campus, with the most recent one on July 8 when they attempted to axe yet another tree to make way for a new boys' hostel building.

"I heard a loud noise on Saturday afternoon. I stepped out of my apartment and saw a few people trying to cut a fully-grown tree with a chainsaw. I quickly rushed to the spot and tried to confront them. I interrogated them about required permission, but they kept reiterating that since the tree is on their property, they can cut it without any permission," said Katana Rayl, a resident of the area.

An argument between Rayl and those axing the tree ensued followed by intervention by police officials from Hebbal Police Station. While the tree is still standing, residents say the person cutting it illegally has threatened to axe it after seeking the required permission.

As per a High Court order passed a couple of years ago and the Karnataka Preservation of Tree Act, 1976, a tree cannot be cut or damaged unless it is an imminent danger to life and property. Even the DCF cannot grant permission to cut trees unless it meets the above condition. Any requests to axe trees are to be reviewed by the tree expert committee put in place through the High Court order. City-based tree activists say the Forest Department of BBMP should take the illegal tree felling menace seriously and book forest offense cases immediately.

"Many such cases of property owners in the city cutting trees illegally have come to light in the recent past. BBMP's Forest Department should not take these cases lightly and investigate them to ensure that such illegal activities stop for good," said a city-based tree activist. According to BBMP officials, they have received the complaint and action will be taken against the perpetrators. "We have received the complaint and we are investigating the case.

After gathering details, suitable action will be taken up against the offenders. We are contemplating filing an FIR due to them damaging the tree and trying to axe it without due permission," said an official from the Forest Department.

Residents complained that this fully-grown tree in Hebbal was being cut with a chainsaw

whatsapp MIRROR 9591233247

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Pothole alert

Ganesha Block

The Ganesha Block area between Navrang Theatre and Harishchandra Ghat has a pothole near the main road.

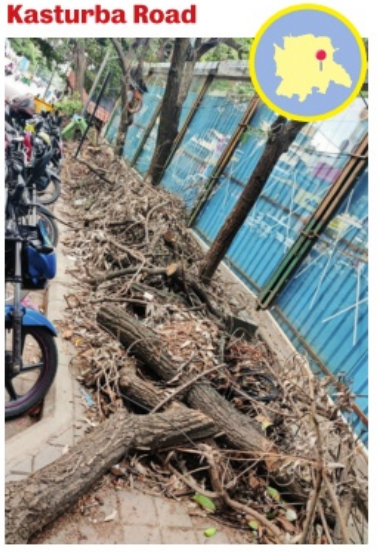
Debris dumping

HRBR Layout

The footpath opposite the HRBR Layout Cosmopolitan Club on 80 feet road is full of debris.

Pedestrians troubled

Kasturba Road



This is the condition of the footpath next to Cubbon Park police station, Kasturba Road.

Metro needs to catch the rain on green, purple & pink lines

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The rainwater harvesting (RWH) structure on BMRCL's track between MG Road and Baiyappanahalli metro station is a commendable example of efficient groundwater recharge and must be replicated on green, purple, and pink lines too, a city-based non-profit organisation suggested after surveying these lines.

The week-long survey conducted between Silk Institute station and Nagasandra station on the green line and Magadi station and Kengeri station on the purple line shows that no RWH structure has been created on these new stretches of BMRCL.

"Throughout the surveyed stretch of 41 km of both green and purple lines, no RWH structure was found. The RWH system between MG Road and Byappanahalli metro station successfully captures and recharges every drop of rain, showcasing the immense potential for sustainable water management.

BMRCL should take up similar RWH structures across the green, purple, and pink lines too," said Raghavendra B Pachhapur of ActionAid, the association that conducted the survey.

A total of 1,189 pillars were surveyed, apart from the seven km of the under-construction elevated pink line between Kalena Agrahara and Tavarekere metro station.

The survey also noted that rainwater collected from the metro pillars on

the 41-kilometre stretch was being drained to the median, a structure covered by concrete on the sides and filled with approximately half feet of gravel stone on the top.

"Water was seen overflowing on the divider and the rest of it onto the road. Such structures cannot be categorised as RWH. During the survey, a tank was observed between Jayanagar and South End Circle on the green line too. However, there was no RWH pit in the centre of the median for it to harvest rainwater effectively. Moreover, while only one tank was observed throughout the survey, it was not maintained," said a student from Kristu Jayanti College who participated in the survey.

Pits with an approximate size of 4 ft x 5 ft and a height of 3 ft were found adjacent to some pillars along green and purple lines but were filled with soil and trash, apart from gravel stone.

"Across green and purple lines, these pits were filled with soil and trash. It is clear that after a few minutes of rain, water would start overflowing from these pits onto the road. These pits cannot serve as RWH structures," added Pachhapur.

The survey further suggested that BMRCL should come up with a policy to take up rainwater harvesting structures across all the elevated new lines in the city to ensure groundwater recharge.

Food things take time

If we've waited this long, we can wait till August for when BBMP plans to open Tind Beedi

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City dwellers may have to wait for an additional month before they go for a quick bite at the VV Puram Food Street. The construction work, which has been long overdue, is experiencing delays, and now, the Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) plans to open the 'Tind Beedi' in August.

Chickpet MLA Uday Garudachar, who inspected the ongoing work, said, "We conducted an inspection on Tuesday. The subsoil work - the most complicated part - has been successfully completed. Currently, the underground drainage, water supply, stormwater rain, cable line duct, and cable chamber works have also been finished.

Now, the focus is on the above-ground work. All the necessary materials have been procured, and we are optimistic about completing the project within a month." He hopes that by August, the food street will be open to the public.

The remaining tasks include the installation of a colourful concrete road on the carriage way, placement of kerb stones, pedestrian walkways,

"Each restaurant uses a substantial amount of oil for cooking, and the waste produced also contains oil. The residual oil flowing into the sewer may cause blockages. The street will also have fixed dustbins.

installation of streetlamps using HDD cables, canopies in front of all the shops, an entry plaza, and beautification around Sir M Visvesvaraya statue. The project has been undertaken at a cost of Rs 5 crore.

Previously, the sight of dug-up roads, heaps of mud, and slushy pathways had become common at this popular spot, causing disruptions for vendors and inconveniences for customers. BBMP's Special Commissioner Jayaram Raipura explained, "While Commercial Street and Church Street experience regular business activities, the food street primarily deals with restaurants, resulting in a significant amount of wet waste generation. Therefore, we need to carefully design this street."

He further mentioned that they have decided to incorporate street furniture, along with common hand wash facilities. The underground sewer lines will be equipped with grease and oil traps for each outlet.

He stated, "Each restaurant uses a substantial amount of oil for cooking, and the waste produced also contains oil. The residual oil flowing into the sewer may cause blockages. The street will also have fixed dustbins."

When asked about the reasons for remodelling the food street, Raipura responded, "Food streets are crucial as they enhance livability of an area, just as enhanced slow streets create relaxation zones and provide opportunities for interaction and other activities. Our plan includes optimised road geometry, dedicated and controlled parking, and the utilisation of conservancy lanes for additional seating to mitigate overcrowding. We are also intending to plant palm trees along the road."

Located between Sajjan Rao Circle and Minerva Circle in VV Puram, the space is set to undergo a transformation with a focus on pedestrians. The current challenges faced by the street include indiscriminate parking, constant vehicular movement disrupting pedestrian access, limited user amenities, uneven footpaths, and inconsistent signage strategies.

At present, there are 39 food outlets along the 209-m-long stretch. The road width will be reduced to 5 m, while the footpaths will be widened.

Ex-employee barges into company, kills MD, CEO

A former employee barged into a company in Amrithahalli early morning and brutally killed the Managing Director (MD) and the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of the firm.

The deceased have been identified as Paneendra Subramanya, Managing Director and Vinu Kumar, CEO of Aironics Media Private Limited.

Felix, a former employee of the firm, is suspected to have committed the murders. The Amrithalli police visited the place and conducted an inspection.

Felix had established his own company after leaving this company. However, it is said that Felix, who thought Paneendra was a rival to his business, had devised a plan to somehow get him out of his way. He is said to have entered the company at around 4 pm and attacked him with a knife. **BMB**

Action to be initiated against 42 loan apps: Govt

The Karnataka government on Tuesday said action will be initiated against 42 loan apps for harassing people.

"The matter has been discussed with the Central government and Google already; 42 such apps have been removed from the Play Store," Minister for Health Dinesh Gundu Rao in the Legislative Council said. He was speaking on behalf of Home Minister G Parameshwara.

Rao said that many steps have been initiated against such apps, he stated. BJP MLC DS Arun raised the issue in the Legislative Council, and said that online gaming, online loan apps were "torturing people".

"In particular, the gaming applications and online loan apps are destroying the life of youth and students," he said. **IANS**

‘GIVE US OUR JOBS’

Applicants selected as assistant professors hold protest at Freedom Park; demand completion of recruitment process without any delay

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KAUSHIK JN

Selected candidates staging a protest at Freedon Park on Tuesday

Hundreds of applicants selected for the posts of assistant professors staged a dharna at Freedom Park on Tuesday, demanding the authorities begin the process of posting them without any delay. They said that they have been facing a lot of problems due to the delay in completing the process of recruitment for the posts of assistant professors. They claimed that it has become difficult for them to make ends meet as they have been unemployed for more than a year.

They added that1,242 candidates were selected for the posts of assistant professors among the 35,000 people who attended the examination held between March 12 and 16, 2022. Among the 1,242 candidates, 70 are physically challenged.

“I used to work as a guest lecturer at a private college. I passed the examination and got selected for the post of assistant professor. The private college where I was working asked me to quit the job. They thought that I would quit the job after being posted as an assistant professor at a government college. I ended up unemployed because of the delay in completing the process of recruitment,” said Rajat Dixit, a visually challenged candidate from Shivamogga.

It would be difficult for physically challenged candidates to work as assistant professors at private educational institutions, as they expect physically challenged people to do other work apart from teaching, he explained. “I and other physically challenged candidates believe that the government is a god for us. I appeal to the authorities to complete the recruitment process without any delay,” he added.

Expressing a similar opinion, a woman candidate said that she used to work at a private college situated in Yelahanka before getting selected for the assistant professor post. “Now, I have no job. I appeal to the authorities to complete the process for the benefit of hundreds of candidates,” she said.

Dr M Ravi from Shivamogga expressed concern over the delay in commencing the recruitment process.

“I was working at the Central Institute of Indian Languages, Mysuru, before attending the examination for the assistant professor post.

> **“Now, I have no job. I appeal to the authorities to complete the process for the benefit of hundreds of candidates** –A candidate

I quit the job, expecting the government to post me at any government college to work as an assistant professor. The authorities are delaying the process of recruitment on one or another pretext. They are citing the case in court. The case pertains to a few candidates. It has nothing to do with the remaining candidates who got selected for the posts of assistant professor,” said Dr Ravi.

Moreover, Jayashankar N from Tumakuru informed that the dharna would be continued till the government issues an order to commence the process of recruiting assistant professors.

Some of the MLCs and politicians visited the agitating candidates at Freedom Park to express their solidarity. It may be recalled that the Karnataka Examination Authority (KEA) lodged a complaint that the examination conducted to recruit assistant professors held in March 2022 was compromised. The Karnataka University Registrar was arrested by police in this regard.

‘Only 80-mark exams for PU students’

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The first- and second-year PU students will soon write 80-mark exams, while the rest 20 will be calculated in the form of internal assessment marks. This is to ensure that students don’t have exam fear and to improve the pass percentage.

Minister of Primary and Secondary Education, Madhu Bangarappa, stated, “In addition to the science subject, internal assessment marks will be introduced in subjects that previously did not have them and included in the results. Until now, only a few subjects, including science, had practicals. In those subjects, the theory paper was worth 70 marks, and the practicals were worth 30 marks. However, internal assessment marks in other subjects were never considered for the final results. As a result, students in non-science streams mostly had to write the theory paper for 100 marks.”

Starting in 2023–24, the theory paper will only be worth 80 marks, with the remaining 20 marks allocated for internal assessment, he added.

To calculate the internal assessment marks, the departments will develop a formula. The marks from the first and second tests and mid-term exams will be considered, and the best of the two will be counted for 10 marks. For the remaining 10 marks, college-level projects and assignments can be taken into account. This can be divided so that project and assignment writing carry five marks, presentation receives three marks, and viva voce accounts for two marks, totaling 10 marks.

If a student is absent for any of the exams, they will need to score at least 35 out of the 80 marks in the theory paper to pass. This policy will only apply to regular students and does not extend to repeaters or private candidates, the Minister explained.

No NEP for schools

Bangarappa mentioned that the National Education Policy (NEP) will be abolished for schools. “We will develop a curriculum that aligns with the state’s learning objectives. We will scrap the previous government’s decision to implement the NEP and instead introduce a curriculum that suits Karnataka. A committee will be established for this purpose, and after considering the committee’s recommendations, we will implement the new curriculum.”

Regarding the removal of controversial lessons, he added, “We have eliminated the contentious chapters introduced by the BJP government. We will reintroduce the textbooks that were in use during the previous Congress government.” When asked about actions against unauthorised schools, the minister replied, “We need to proceed cautiously to avoid causing hardship to students. Therefore, we will provide opportunities for such schools to regularise their status.”

Who killed inter-caste couple?

Fact-finding team delves deep into what led to deaths in Bangarpete

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TWEETS @BangaloreMIRROR

A fact-finding report regarding the deaths of an inter-caste couple in Bangarpete taluk of the state has been released.

Recently, a case of alleged honour killing by a father who strangled his daughter to death for having a relationship with a man from a different caste made headlines. The incident took place on June 27 in Bodagurki village of Bangarpete taluk of Kolar district, and the victim was identified as 20-year-old Keerthi. Soon after hearing about the death of Keerthi, Gangadhara, belonging to the Scheduled Caste – Madiga community, committed suicide by jumping in front of a fast-moving train.

A fact-finding team consisting of Dinesh Kumar S, a student activist in Kolar Gold Fields; Sivamanithan S, an advocate from Bengaluru; and Dr Siddharth KJ, an independent researcher, visited Bodagurki, where both Keerthi and Gangadhara resided.

The population of Bodagurki village is composed of people from different caste, the largest group being those belonging to the Scheduled Caste (mainly Madiga and some Bhovi families) and backward classes (Golla, Reddy and Vokkaliga) and one family of a forward caste (Brahmin), the report has found. It also found that the village had a nyaya panchayat – an informal forum wherein both civil and criminal disputes are adjudicated outside the court of law – in place in order to settle inter-caste conflicts. The practice of thoti thalavarike or kulvadike, a hereditary caste practice associated with services performed by the untouchable caste, continues to exist in Bodagurki village.

“Gangadhara being a thoti added stigma to his social and economic status was an important factor behind the vehement opposition to the alliance from Keerthi’s family,” the report says.

The report recalled the only two prior instances of inter-caste marriage within the same village. “In both instances, the couples had to leave the village and settle in the city and have not been able to return to the village, not even to meet their parents or family members or take part in any family function or festival,” it explained.

> **Report highlights that the police refused to file an FIR against girl’s family for using casteist slurs**

It noted that the FIR filed in the case of Keerthi’s death has named only her father as an accused and added that the role of other family members in Keerthi’s murder cannot be ruled out as the death took place during the intervening night between June 26 and 27. It highlighted that despite multiple attempts by Gangadhara’s family to file a complaint against Keerthi’s family for using caste slurs against them in public and being the cause for Gangadhara’s suicide, police refused to file an FIR until the Dalita Sangharsha Samithi (DSS) staged a protest outside the police station.

HEALTH TIP: Mushroom is a good source of many B-complex groups of vitamins such as niacin, riboflavin, thiamine and folate

Kale contains calcium, which helps prevent osteoporosis and maintains metabolism

CUT THE NOISE

Workers hate office noise – but is using headphones to shut out colleagues a solution?

If there is one skill that would probably help children in today's competitive world, Mansi Zaveri, Founder –Kidsstoppress.com pins it on reading, as a habit and as a lifelong skill. From her experience of running #KSPBookClub, an online community of parents looking to raise readers, she filters a few frustration and a dislike of reading.

Is it OK to wear headphones in the office? Do they help get work done, or is wearing them considered rude and damaging to the office vibe?

While it might be easy to dismiss our headphone-wearing colleagues as unfriendly, the increase in usage is symptomatic of another issue entirely.

As staff have returned to the office post-lockdown, they have been confronted with the thing employees dislike most about open plan offices according to research: noise.

Modern knowledge work demands the psychological ability to focus and concentrate for lengthy periods. That is hard to do when colleagues are having impromptu meetings next to your desk, or discussing their weekends as you struggle to hit a looming deadline.

Noise and distraction

Open-plan office noise has significant implications for both employee wellbeing and performance.

Our research found relatively moderate levels of open-plan office noise caused a 25 per cent increase in negative mood and a 34 per cent increase in physiological stress.

In addition to making employees more stressed and cranky, noisy open-plan offices reduce performance. Research shows employees in quieter one-person offices perform 14 per cent better on a cognitive task than employees in open plan offices.

Like closing the office door

Wearing headphones all day is likely to signal the office environment is too noisy or distracting. It can also indicate the dynamics of the team's interaction is ineffective.

Since most employees no longer have the luxury of closing their office door, headphones have emerged as an alternative. They provide a way for employees to make it clear they don't want to be interrupted, and to block out noise.

For others, using headphones to listen to music can help reduce anxiety. This was supported in a 2021 workplace discrimination hearing in the United Kingdom where the tribunal ruled in favour of an anxious worker who wanted to wear them.

And while noise-cancelling headphones do not improve cognitive performance, they do increase the user's perceptions of privacy.

This is significant because when employees cannot control noise they feel a loss of privacy, and excessive stimulation can lead to frustration, anger and withdrawal.

> **Moderate levels of open-plan office noise caused 25% increase in negative mood and 34% increase in physiological stress**

What about workplace collaboration?

In many open-plan offices, the drive for increased interaction and collaboration comes at the expense of the ability to focus and concentrate.

When distraction makes it hard for employees to focus, cognitive and emotional resources are depleted. The result is increasing stress and errors, undermining performance.

When employees can't concentrate on their work, their desire to interact and collaborate with others is reduced.

While focussed work is important, success in modern workplaces is often driven by how well individuals interact with each other and with the organisation.

Workplaces that provide more frequent and higher-quality contact with others have been shown to have improved communication and collaboration on tasks, job satisfaction and social support.

And our social environment plays a significant role in our ability to be proactive and motivated.

When employees wear headphones, opportunities to connect with colleagues, share ideas and build social relationships are reduced. But people are still likely to interact more with their colleagues than if they work from home because they can attend meetings and go out for coffee.

What can organisations do?

With hybrid work – where employees work some of the week at home and the rest in the office – now more widespread, employees are more likely to come to the office for social interaction and face-to-face collaboration with their colleagues.

However, this has to be balanced with the need for focused work.

Organisations can deal with this in several ways. They can provide effective acoustic treatments in the workplace and by ensuring the design and layout of the office provides sufficient spaces for employees to retreat from noise.

An example of this can be found in LinkedIn's San Francisco office. The entire space has been redesigned since the start of the pandemic with a range of different work zones including ones specifically designated for quiet, and others to encourage collaboration and social interaction.

Communicating expectations and monitoring behaviour at the team level is also important.

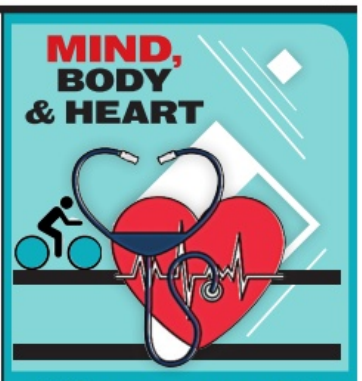
Research shows it takes about 23 minutes to get back on task after an interruption. Being constantly interrupted by impromptu questions and random conversation will not only reduce productivity but can lead to withdrawal.

The frequency and purpose of planned interaction will differ between teams based on individual differences and on the type of work being undertaken.

In some teams this may happen hourly, in others it may be much less frequent. Communicating individual needs amongst the team and setting times for discussions can reduce the number of distracting interruptions.

By establishing effective team communication strategies and providing workers with well-designed spaces that enable focused work, employees may be less likely to use headphones for long periods, therefore enhancing opportunities for knowledge sharing, problem solving and team interaction.

(Libby (Elizabeth) Sander, Bond University, The Conversation)



All you need to know about...

Chronic pain problems

Chronic pain and early death

People living with fibromyalgia — a severe chronic pain disorder that causes persistent widespread pain and fatigue — could be increasingly vulnerable to early death by accidents, infections, and especially suicide, suggests a study.

What is fibromyalgia

Mayo Clinic defines fibromyalgia as a disorder characterised by widespread musculoskeletal pain accompanied by fatigue, sleep, memory and mood issues. Researchers believe that fibromyalgia amplifies painful sensations by affecting the way your brain and spinal cord process painful and non-painful signals.

What causes it

In the study, researchers from Ben-Gurion University of the Negev in Israel said while it's not clear what causes fibromyalgia, its prevalence is increasing. There is also a growing recognition that the condition often coexists with other health problems, including rheumatic, gut, neurological, and mental health disorders, which leads to an early death, they said.

The risks

To strengthen this hypothesis, the researchers reviewed the findings of 6 relevant studies, published between 1999 and 2020, and involving a total of 188,751 adults, all of whom had other coexisting conditions.
The analysis showed that fibromyalgia was associated with a 27% heightened risk of death from all causes over time. Specifically, the analysis showed that the risk of death from cancer was 12% lower than it was for the general population of the same age, and only marginally higher (5 per cent) for accidents. But it was 44% higher for infections, including pneumonia and septicaemia, and more than 3 times as high for suicide.

—IANS

No peace of mind in Krishnappa Garden

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

the road is occupied with four wheelers, there is no space for pedestrians to walk as there is no footpath on the road adjacent to the lake. The lake bund is full of weeds," said a homemaker on the condition of anonymity.

Expressing frustration over the haphazard parking, Latha Rajeev, a resident of the area, said that residents have brought the haphazard parking of vehicles to the notice of Bagmane Tech Park management. "Smoking at the entrance of our locality is another issue that has to be resolved on a priority basis. The authorities concerned, including the police, have to act and fix this problem," said Latha Rajeev.

Krishnappa Garden Residents Association wrote a letter to the Commissioner of Police on February 16, 2018 complaining about the nuisance, haphazard parking of vehicles and alcohol menace. The then Commissioner of Police directed the Police Inspector of Byappanahalli Police Station to organise police patrolling to control the nuisance. The Commissioner of Police has also directed the Police Inspector to report him about the action taken.

The Krishnappa Garden Residents Association has also written a letter to BBMP Chief Commissioner on June 25, 2018, highlighting the problems. The BBMP Chief Commissioner directed the Joint Commissioner (East) to take action against those causing nuisance but nothing has happened till date.

"I have complained to the police as well as the BBMP but they did nothing to mitigate our problems. The police at Baiyappanahalli are not interested in patrolling this area," said Krishnappa Garden Residents Association president N Devaraju.

Though the shop that sells tobacco products exhibits a 'No Smoking' board, none of the customers who visit the shop are bothered about this norm. "I have told the customers not to smoke near the shop but they are not listening to me," said YS Bindu, the shop owner.

When asked, Baiyappanahalli Police Inspector assured BM that they would look into the matter. "The residents can contact 112 if they come across any unlawful activities. The residents can contact me if the police (Hoyasala) fail to visit their area," said the Police Inspector.

Will the residents of Krishnappa Garden get the much-needed relief from this nuisance? They have to wait and watch as it solely depends on the police and BBMP.

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CHANGE OF NAME

I Srinivas N S R/o 507,7th main 11th cross,Girinagar 2nd phase, Bangalore 560085 have changed my son's name from Sudhanva Kaushik to Sudhanva Nagamangala Srinivas Kaushik for all purposes.

I, GOPAL MARIA R/at No.H No. 151, 2nd Cross D Krishnappa Nagareshwara Nagenahalli K Narayanapura Layout Bangalore- 560077, have changed my name to EMMANUEL MARIA vide affidavit dated: 11/7/2023 Before Notary C.Sharada Bangalore.

I, KARTHIK KRISHNAN S, Residing at No 202, Sobha Morzaria Grandeur -4, Bannerghatta Road, Next to Oracle, Bangalore -560029. Have changed My name to KARTHIK KRISHNAN vide affidavit dated 10/07/2023 before Notary Aravind Patil G.G Bangalore

I, Ashwin Kumar P R/o #324, Govinda Shetty Palya , Electronic City(po) , Bangalore -560100 have changed my minor son's name from Mrinal Skanda A to Mayukh Shanvith A for all purposes.

I Shivanand Manjunath Kamath S/O, Manjunath Kamath R/o #9032 , Prestige Lakeside Habitat, Gunjur Main Road, Varthur, Bangalore - 560087 have changed my name to Shivanand Kamath

I Dsouza Ancilla Robert D/O, Robert Dsouza R/o A-010,shell Northgate Apartments, K-narayanpura, Kothanur, Bangalore 560077 have changed my name to Ancilla Dsouza

I, Sanjay Kumar Singh R/o A2-106, Genesis Ecosphere, Electronic City Phase I, Bangalore 560100 have changed my minor son's name from Ishan to Ishan Singh

I Vipin Chandra S/O, Vijay Prasad R/o Tungeshwar, Chamoli, Uttarakhand-246482 have changed my name to Vipin Chandra Devrari

I Azeem Aman Zaheer Kazi S/O, Zaheer Kazi have changed my name to Azeem Aman Kazi for all purposes

I, Vikash Kumar Vishwakarma R/O Flat-401, No.26 Chaithanya Apts, HSR, SEC-2,Bangalore, in my Passport my name wrongly mentioned as Vikash Kumar Viswhwakarma, but my correct and actual name is Vikash Kumar Vishwakarma for all purposes.

I, Habib Shariq, S/o C.M Abdul Wahab, R/at #31, Thatheera Mansion, 2nd Floor, Serpentine street, Richmond Town, B.lore-25 have changed my name to HABIB SHARIQ CHADKHAN, affidavit dt 29.05.2023 before notary Meer Hassan, B.lore

I Lakshmi Nagamangala Venkataramaiah W/o Venkataramaiah Nagamangala Krishnappa R/o 783, 4thmain, A Block, 2nd Stage, rajajinagar, bangalore have changed my name to Venkatalakshamma Nagamangala Venkataramaiah

I, Mohammed Asadulla Shariff S/o Mohamed Amanulla shariff R/o No 854 2nd floor 20th B main road 8th block Koramangala bangalore 560034 have changed my name to Mohamed Asadulla Shariff for all purposes

I, Sanjaya Venkatachalaiah R/o 1335, 18th main, 1st stage, 5th block, HBR Lyt, Kalyana nagar, Bengaluru 560043 have changed my name to Sanjay Venkatachalaiah affidavit Dt.11/07/2023 notary Harisha G, B'luru

I Kempamma R/o No.9, 9th Main Road, Kalidasanagar, Hosakerehalli, Banashankari 3rd stage, Bengaluru-560085 have changed my name to Kempamma Rangappa

I Lavanya Rakesh Bharadwaj R/o 560 Shankara Krupa, BSK 6th stg 4th H block, Vrushabhavathi, Bangalore-560062 have changed my name to Lavanya BN

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Human-animal conflict: HC issues prevention guidelines

The Karnataka High Court on Tuesday issued several guidelines to prevent human-animal conflict and provide support to the people affected by it, while disposing of a petition filed by Karnataka Growers' Federation.

Among other measures, the division bench of Chief Justice Prasanna B Varale and Justice M G S Kamal directed that a grievance cell for receiving complaints about wild animals venturing into human habitats be established in every taluk.

The HC also directed the establishment of elephant corridors for the movement of wild elephants.

The state government was also directed to provide adequate resources to the forest department including human resources, vehicles and infrastructure to prevent human-animal conflict.

The court issued directions on establishing 24/7 control rooms and sending warning messages in bulk to people in areas where wild animal threats are noticed. The control rooms should be connected to the nearest health centres and hospitals for treating people injured in conflict with wildlife.

Senior officials of the forest department should meet every quarter to discuss issues related to human-wildlife conflict and initiate necessary measures, the HC said. The Range Forest Officers and Tehsildars should meet every two months compulsorily to discuss these issues.

The HC also directed the authorities to popularise the grievance cells among the public by issuing necessary public announcements and also publishing it on the notice boards of all gram panchayats.

File photo of a wild elephant that strayed into a village in Mysuru

Summons issued to activist stayed

The Karnataka High Court has issued a stay order on the summons served to activist Chakravarti Sulibele in connection with the case concerning the protest in front of the Town Hall here against the killing of BJP Yuva Morcha member Praveen Nettaru.

Justice M Nagaprasanna presided over the bench that granted this temporary order, after hearing a petition seeking the cancellation of the private complaint filed against Sulibele in the VI ACMM court by the inspector of S J Park police station, as well as the summons issued by the court.

During the hearing on Monday, senior advocate Arun Shyam argued that the State Government had issued an order restricting protests to only take place in Freedom Park, prohibiting them from happening elsewhere in the city.

The inspector of S J Park police station, M R Satish, filed a private complaint in the VI ACMM court, accusing Sulibele of violating this order by protesting in front of the Town Hall without obtaining prior permission, which allegedly disrupted public peace and law and order.

Arun Shyam contended that according to the law, the complaint should have been filed by the officer who issued the order or by a superior officer. In this case, the SJ Park Station Inspector registered a private complaint, and the Magistrate court issued the summons. Thus, he sought the dismissal of the case against the petitioner.

After considering the arguments, the bench granted a stay on the summons served to Sulibele and adjourned the hearing. **PTI**

Around 70 deaths each month in road accidents

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

against two-wheeler riders for traffic violations, which constitutes 76.05% of the total violations recorded in the city.

He added that the idea behind identifying black spots is to find if there are any issues on the road itself so that they can modify the road engineering.

"We are putting different signs to indicate various hazards on the road. The other initiative is to reduce cases of speeding by enforcement or using rumble strips. In case of pedestrian crossings, we are ensuring that some kind of marking is there to alert all road-users," he added.

Traffic expert MN Sreehari told BM that a lack of enforcement of rules is the main reason behind increasing deaths due to road accidents.

"Now that they have introduced cameras to capture violations, not many policemen are seen on the road. If people don't see policemen they are not scared and they tend to break traffic rules. Cameras will catch violations and fine the violators, but at that very moment people don't tend to realise that breaking traffic rules can endanger life," said Sreehari.

He added that there are many people who are speeding and not wearing helmets, especially in the outskirts of the city.

A total of 21,05,760 cases have been booked for riders without helmets, and 4,56,067 cases have been booked for pillion riders without helmets. As many as 1,548 cases have been booked for speeding as well.

"In the city, cars don't tend to speed, but because two-wheelers are flexible, they try to go fast. And pedestrians also become a victim of road accidents because the footpaths have parked vehicles, so people have no choice but to walk on the road," he added.

Moon mission: Time for final countdown

ISRO conducts launch rehearsal for Chandrayaan-3 spacecraft

ISRO completes the 'launch rehearsal' for Chandrayaan-3, which will be launched from Satish Dhawan Space Centre, Sriharikota, on July 14

#Chennai

The countdown for the launch of India's third moon mission on July 14 is expected to begin soon with the completion of the "launch rehearsal" on Monday. "The 'Launch Rehearsal' simulating the entire launch preparation and process lasting 24 hours has been concluded," said the Indian space agency on Monday.

And just after 2.50 p.m. on July 14, India's Chandrayaan-3 spacecraft will begin its own long moon journey after being ejected by the rocket LVM3, it said. After travelling about 3.84 lakh km, the Chandrayaan-3 spacecraft is expected to land on the lunar surface on August 23 or 24. The Chandrayaan-3 spacecraft comprises a propulsion module (weighing 2,148 kg), a lander (1,723.89 kg) and a rover (26 kg), the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) said.

Incidentally, the Chandrayaan-2 payload weighed about 3.8 ton with the orbiter weighing 2,379 kg, the Vikram lander 1,444 kg (including the Pragyan rover 27 kg). The main purpose of Chandrayaan-3 is to safely land the lander on the moon soil.

After that, the rover will roll out to do the experiments. The life of the payload carried by the propulsion module post ejection of the lander is between three and six months. On the other hand, the mission life of the lander and the rover is 1 Lunar day or 14 earth days, ISRO said.

According to the Indian space agency, the propulsion module has Spectro-polarimetry of Habitable Planet Earth (SHAPE) payload to study the spectral and Polari metric measurements of Earth from the lunar orbit. The lander payloads are: Chandra's Surface Thermophysical Experiment (ChaSTE) to measure the thermal conductivity and temperature; Instrument for Lunar Seismic Activity (ILSA) for measuring the seismicity around the landing site; Langmuir Probe (LP) to estimate the plasma density and its variations.

A passive Laser Retroreflector Array from NASA is accommodated for lunar laser ranging studies. On the other hand, the rover will carry: Alpha Particle X-ray Spectrometer (APXS) and Laser Induced Breakdown Spectroscope (LIBS) for deriving the elemental composition in the vicinity of the landing site, the ISRO said. According to ISRO, the moon mission is divided into three phases – the earth-centric phase (Pre-Launch, Launch and Ascent and Earth-bound Manoeuvre), the Lunar Transfer Phase (Transfer Trajectory), and the Moon Centric Phase (Lunar Orbit Insertion Phase, Moon-bound Manoeuvre Phase, Propulsion Module and Lunar Module Separation, De-boost Phase, Pre-landing Phase, Landing Phase, Normal Phase for Lander and Rover, Moon Centric Normal Orbit Phase (100 km circular orbit) for Propulsion Module. **– IANS**

From July 12-14, US Embassy to close visa application processes

#New Delhi

The US Embassy in India on Monday announced that it will be temporarily closed for visa application processing -- appointment booking, calls, and fee payments from July 12 to July 14.

VFS Global, who handles visa processing for the United States in India, is migrating to a new platform and will resume services on July 15. Taking to Twitter, the US Embassy said "Attention visa applicants! Our customer service center VFS is migrating to a new platform and will be temporarily closed for calls, fee payments, and appointment booking from July 12-14. These services will resume on July 15."

VFS Global is the world's largest outsourcing and technology services specialist for governments and diplomatic missions. They manage the administrative and non-judgmental tasks related to visa, passport and consular services for its client governments.

Recently, United States Ambassador to India Eric Garcetti, in an address in IIT Delhi said that the wait time for the first-time tourist visa interviews in the United States has been reduced by over 50%. She further said "We're already doing this. We're currently processing more visas, faster, than the US Mission in India ever has before. We have set a goal for ourselves to process at least a million visas in 2023, and we're already more than halfway towards reaching that goal."

Indians have been travelling abroad more, particularly to the US. "We're already doing this. We're processing more visas, faster, than the US Mission in India ever has before. We have set a goal for ourselves to process at least a million visas in 2023, and we're already more than halfway towards reaching that goal." **– ET Online**

Order on ED head's tenure illegal: SC

#New Delhi

The Supreme Court on Tuesday held as "illegal" two notifications by the Centre granting extension of service, for one year each time, to Indian Revenue Service officer Sanjay Kumar Mishra as the chief of the Enforcement Directorate.

However, the top court upheld the amendments made to the Central Vigilance Commission (Amendment) Act, 2021 and the Delhi Special Police Establishment (Amendment) Act, 2021 as well as to the Fundamental (Amendment) Rules, 2021 by which the government can give a maximum of five-year tenure to CBI and ED chiefs.

A bench said in view of the peer review being conducted by the Financial Action Task Force (FATF) this year, and to enable smooth transition, Mishra's tenure will be till July 31. **– PTI**

ELSEWHERE IN INDIA

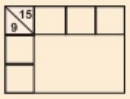
28% GST on full value of online gaming, horse racing, casinos

In a setback to online gaming companies, the GST Council on Tuesday decided that there will be a 28 per cent GST levy on full value of gaming, horse racing, and casinos. Among other issues, the Council approved exemption of GST on import of cancer drug Dinutuximab and on Food for Special Medical Purposes (FSMP) that are used in the treatment of rare diseases. The GST Council, which held its 50th meeting under the chairmanship of Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman, decided to remove the distinction of game of skill and chance in case of online gaming. The date for 28 per cent GST levy will become effective after the amendment in GST law, West Bengal Finance Minister Chandrima Bhattacharya told reporters after the meeting. Maharashtra's Forest, Culture and Fisheries minister Sudhir Mungantiwar told reporters that the GST council also approved setting up of appellate tribunals. **– IANS**

1 more African cheetah, dies in Kuno National Park

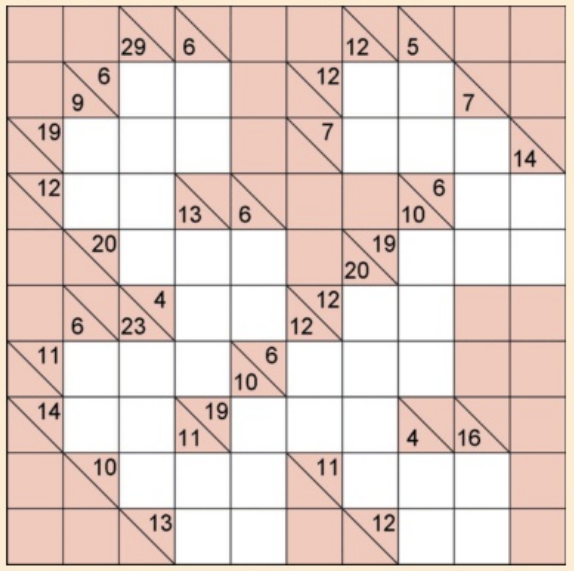
One more African cheetah died in Madhya Pradesh's Kuno National Park (KNP) on Tuesday, a senior forest department official said. The male cheetah, Tejas, was brought to KNP in Sheopur district from South Africa in February this year. "Cheetah Tejas, aged around four years, died in KNP due to suspected infighting," Principal Chief Conservator of Forest (PCCF) Wildlife J S Chauhan told PTI. **– PTI**

Kakuro

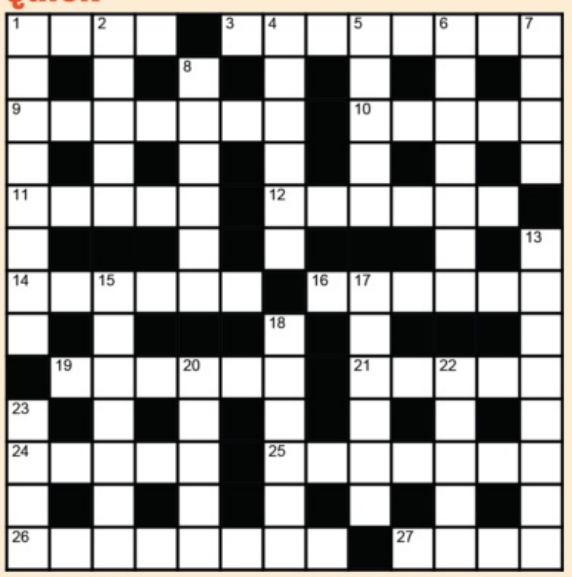


The numbers in the grey squares refer to the sums of the digits that you must fill into the empty spaces directly below or to the right of the grey square containing the number. For instance, in the given example, the 3 boxes horizontally next to 15 must contain 3 digits that add up to 15, whereas for 9, it is the 2 boxes placed vertically under it that must add up to 9. No zeros are used here, only the digits 1 through 9.

Note: A digit cannot appear more than once in any particular digit combination. For instance, in the example, we cannot have the combination of 4+7+4 for 15.



Quick



ACROSS

1 Without heat (4)
3 Became happy or ecstatic (8)
9 Light slender swords used for thrusting (7)
10 Horrify or stun (5)
11 Perplexed or uncertain (2,3)
12 Bounces back (6)
14 Speak highly of (6)
16 A dozen (6)
19 Two-step and waltz (6)
21 Capital city of Bulgaria (5)
24 A French wine (5)
25 Repetitive (7)
26 Rewrites in a different way (8)
27 Eye complaint (4)

DOWN

1 22 acre park between M.G Road and Cubbon Road (8)
2 Easy gaits (5)
4 Make certain (6)
5 City in Japan (5)
6 First-rate (7)
7 Not bright, not sharp (4)
8 Rots and decomposes (6)
13 Verbal banter (8)
15 Gave a prize or medal to (7)
17 Dissipated, squandered (6)
18 Help (6)
20 Hot drink (5)
22 Lavish repast (5)
23 Islamic chieftain (4)

Quoteuncode

This puzzle is a substitution cipher in which one letter stands for another. If you think that Q equals C, it will equal C throughout the puzzle. Single letters, short words and words using an apostrophe give you clues to locating vowels. Solution is by trial and error.

Today's CLUE: N EQUALS S

HRAD KRYGOEH QI NHGG JYGG YTAEHRNH MIOE ADRTAHN KIE NOAAHNN RQ MIOE THFQ RQQHLWQ.

Linemaro

A hundred hearts be too few to carry all my love for you

Mindchow

It is easier to resist at the beginning than at the end

Joke of the day

It's been lovely, but I have to scream now

Loop

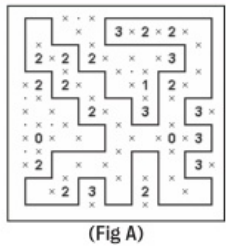
Rules

» Connect adjacent dots with vertical or horizontal lines, creating a single loop (Fig A). » Crossovers or branches are not allowed (As shown by dotted lines in Fig B). » Numbers in the puzzle indicate the number of lines that should surround it, while empty cells may be surrounded by any number of lines. » You can't draw lines around zeros. » Each puzzle has just one unique solution.

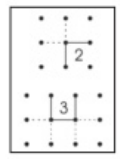
How to begin:

Example (Fig A) – Begin with the zero next to 3. Since no lines can be drawn around zero, mark crosses around it, as shown. Now there is a cross in one space around 3. So we know the three lines of 3 can only be drawn in the remaining three spaces. Next, these lines can only be extended in one direction each. Continue, using the same logic.

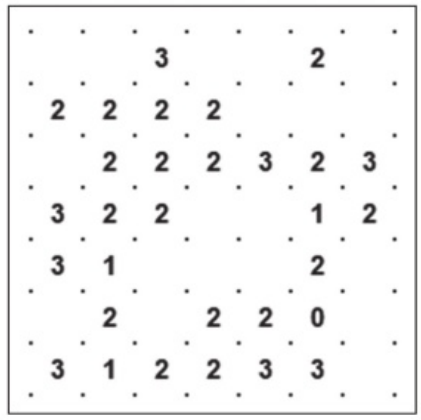
Hints: Keep eliminating possibilities by marking crosses in spaces between dots where a line isn't possible, i.e., if you have already completed required lines or where a line extension may create a branch or cause a dead-end (Fig B)



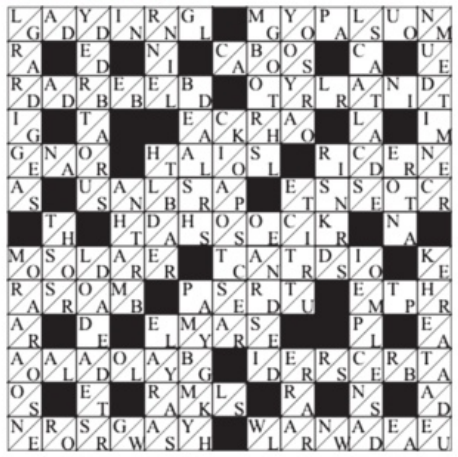
(Fig A)



(Fig B) Not Allowed



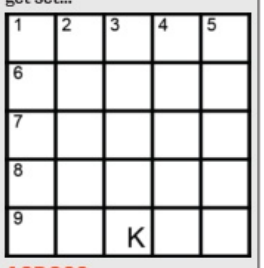
Strikeout



This crossword has no clues and the answer is there waiting for you. All you have to do is find it in each square. You have a choice of two letters, one of which you must strike out. If you choose correctly, you will be left with a grid that contains real words.

Fast five

How long do you think it will take you to unscramble the ten words shown below and fit them correctly into the grid in the order given one letter has already been entered to get you started? on your marks, get set...



ACROSS

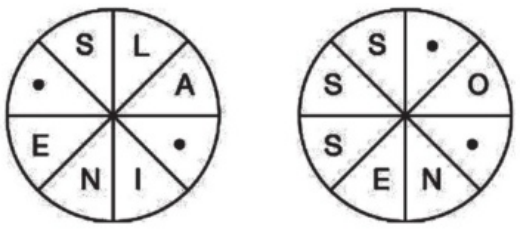
1 Sails; 6 Hoe do; 7 Or lib; 8 Oaten; 9 Drake

DOWN

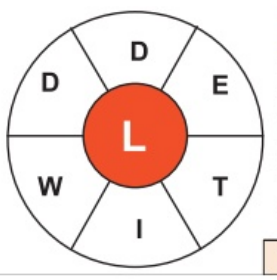
1 Labor; 2 A taro; 3 Hooks; 4 Seen I; 5 Le did

Mensapuzzle

Fill in the blanks to find two words that are synonyms.



Bull's eye



How many words of four or more letters can you make from the letters shown? Every word must contain the central letter. There should be one seven-letter word. British English Dictionary is used as a reference.

12 Average; 14 Good; 16 Outstanding

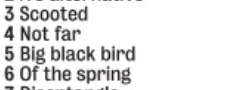
SudokuChallenge

	8		2		3		7	
7								5
	6	9				8	1	
	2			7			8	
3			4		9			7
	9			8			4	
	3	4				7	5	
8								9
	5		7		8		6	

To solve a Sudoku puzzle, every digit from one to nine must appear in each of the nine vertical columns, in each of the nine horizontal rows and in each of the nine boxes.

Gofigure

Place the four numbers in the first, third, fifth, and seventh boxes and whatever operators you care to use in the second, fourth, and sixth boxes in the correct order to get the answer. Use the numbers only once.



Easy = 15
1 4 5 5

Medium = 16
2 3 4 5

Hard = 30
2 5 8 4

Hocusfocus

Find at least six differences in details between panels.

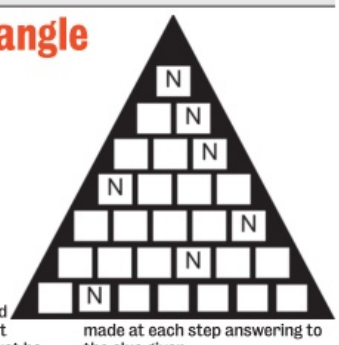
Differences: 1. Purse is larger. **2.** Backpack is larger. **3.** Man in background is smaller. **4.** Building is wider. **5.** Boot has thicker sole. **6.** Eyes are different.

Riddler

Alex and Victoria set off simultaneously on the same journey, but from opposite ends. Alex, travelling at 12 mph completed three quarters of the journey before she met Victoria. How fast is Victoria travelling?

Alpha triangle

1 One of the poles
2 A's alternative
3 Scooted
4 Not far
5 Big black bird
6 Of the spring
7 Disentangle



Beginning at the top move towards the bottom seven-letter word by adding a letter at each step and rearranging. A correct and different word must be made at each step answering to the clue given.

DIFFICULT TO SOLVE? FIND THESE SOLUTIONS ON THE NEXT PAGE

COMICS

Redeye by Mel Casson

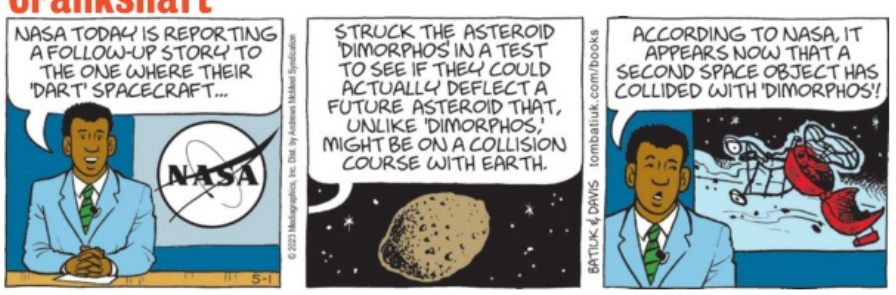
I STARTED SOUTH FOR BETTER WEATHER, BUT THEY'RE SHOOTING AT GEESE!
YOU'RE NOT A GOOSE!
THEN IT MUST HAVE BEEN THIS COLD
HONK!
4-24

Bizarrotrip

Diamond Lil

Hart of the city

Crankshaft


NASA TODAY IS REPORTING A FOLLOW-UP STORY TO THE ONE WHERE THEIR 'DART' SPACECRAFT...
NASA
STRUCK THE ASTEROID 'DIMORPHOS' IN A TEST TO SEE IF THEY COULD ACTUALLY DEFLECT A FUTURE ASTEROID THAT, UNLIKE 'DIMORPHOS,' MIGHT BE ON A COLLISION COURSE WITH EARTH.
ACCORDING TO NASA, IT APPEARS NOW THAT A SECOND SPACE OBJECT HAS COLLIDED WITH 'DIMORPHOS'!
BATIUK & DAVIS tombatiuk.com/books

Mutts

SHELTER STORIES
"WILLY"
YOU ALWAYS HEAR STORIES ABOUT PEOPLE GOING TO A SHELTER
AND GETTING SOME LONELY MUTT WHO TURNS OUT TO BE THE BEST DOG EVER!
WELL, I'M READY WHEN YOU ARE.
mutts.com

WHAT YOUR STARS SAY TODAY

Aries Mar 21 – Apr 20
Today, you may be dissatisfied and have some sort of detachment from your responsibilities, which may make you confused. You may plan hypothetically for your projects. It is advised to be practical in your work to complete it on time. You should also take care of your parents. If you're planning to migrate somewhere, it is advised to postpone it for some days.

Taurus Apr 21 – May 20
Today is a positive day for you. You may find success in your hard work on the professional and domestic front. You may have good focus and complete your work on time, which can improve your self-confidence. You may also expect some work-related short trips, which may be beneficial in the near future in terms of your network.

Gemini May 21 – Jun 21
Today, you may be busy with domestic issues. You may spend money buying some artifacts or household stuff. It is advised to control spending on worthless stuff, otherwise it may attract negative energy in the house. You are also advised to control your harsh speaking with the people around you.

Cancer Jun 22 – July 23
Today, you may feel comfortable after a messy situation. Your vitality may help you implement some difficult decisions in parental business, which may grow your parental business. You may help needy people around you, which may increase your social respect. Students might be clear in choosing their career options.

Leo Jul 24 – Aug 23
Today, you may face health issues, which may make you impatient. You are advised to control your short-tempered nature. You may spend your hard-earned money buying worthless stuff, and it may affect your savings. Love birds are advised to avoid discussions on worthless topics, otherwise there might be a breakup.

Virgo Aug 24 – Sep 23
Today, you may meet some influential person who may help you in the progress of your work. Your network will be strong with the help of that person. You may prepare yourself to implement new ideas into your work or business. You will plan to invest more capital into your business, which may give you financial gains in the near future. In terms of domestic life, you will be busy with family get-togethers and social events.

Libra Sep 24 – Oct 22
Today, your mother's health may be good. You may enjoy work and get rewards for your hard work. Your social respect may increase now. Overworking your mind may make you tired. Due to workload, you may not be able to reach some family events.

Scorpio Oct 23 – Nov 22
Today, you may be satisfied with work. You may plan for a short work-related trip. You may also visit a spiritual place to maintain your inner peace. Your gurus may show you the right path, which may give you clarity regarding your goals.

Sagittarius Nov 23 – Dec 22
Today, you may feel dull and have some health issues. You are advised to postpone making investments in the business. It is also advised not to start a new venture as you are likely to face losses. Your gains may likely convert into losses.

Capricorn Dec 23 – Jan 20
Today, you may feel good as domestic harmony may make you happy. You may meet some influential person to get benefits in the work front. You may perform well in your job and expect promotions. Disputes in inherited property may likely settle down.

Aquarius Jan 21 – Feb 19
Today, you may become healthy and able to focus on your goals. Your performance may be very good at work, and your boss may be happy with you. You may get some important responsibilities at work. You may hear good news in any legal matter. You are likely to have control over your opponents and business rivals.

Pisces Feb 20 – Mar 20
Today, you may prefer gaining knowledge and understanding the value of intellectual assets. Control your temper as that may help you perform your tasks smoothly. There may be some chances for smooth earning, which may give you comfort in the workflow. You are advised to be careful before making new investments in assets. You are likely to spend money on loved ones. Love birds may enjoy their happy moments.

KIDZONE

Mayur Bhat, 9 Years, Jnana Sweekar Public School

Shila Balaraj, 8 Years, Sophia High School

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Please send hard copies of your artwork in A4 size only.

SOLUTIONS

SOLVE IN 1M
720÷[(96)(6)]÷16
720÷576÷16
1.25÷16
17.25

RIDDLER
4 mph

QUOTE UNCODE
Each failure to sell will increase your chances for success at your next attempt.

FAST FIVE

L	A	S	S	I
O	O	H	E	D
B	R	O	I	L
A	T	O	N	E
R	A	K	E	D

STRIKE OUT

L	A	D	I	N	G	G	Y	P	S	U	M			
A	E	N	C	O	O	C	E							
D	A	B	B	E	D	T	Y	R	A	N	T			
I	A		E	C	H	O	L		I					
E	A	R	T	A	O	S	I	D	E	E				
S	S	A	B	R	A	E	N	S	O	R				
T	H	A	S	S	O	C	K	N						
M	O	L	A	R	T	A	R	S	I	K				
A	R	A	B	P	E	R	U	M	P	H				
R	D	L	Y	R	E	P	A							
O	L	D	L	A	G	D	E	S	E	R	T			
O	E	R	M	S	R	N	A							
N	O	R	W	A	Y	L	A	N	D	A				

QUICK

C	O	L	D		R	E	J	O	I	C	E	D		
A	O	D	N		S	A	U							
R	A	P	I	E	R	S		A	P	P	A	L		
I	E	C	U	K	I	L								
M	E	D	O	C	I	T	E	R	A	N	T			
E	D	O	S	D	S	E	R	T						
D	A	N	C	E	S	S	O	F	I	A				
A	W	A		A		P								
P	R	A	I	S	E	T	W	E	L	V	E			
P	Y	E		A		R								
A	T	S	E	A	R	E	A	C	T	S				
I	E	C	U	K	I	L								
R	A	P	I	E	R	S		A	P	P	A	L		
A	O	D	N		S	A	U							
C	O	L	D	R	E	J	O	I	C	E	D			

MENSA PUZZLE
LAZINESS, SLOWNESS

BULL'S EYE
dell, dwelt, idle, idled, lewd, lled, tile, tiled, TWIDDLE, weld, welt, wield, wild, wile, wilt, wilted

SUDOKU

9	5	1	7	3	8	6	4	2
8	7	2	6	5	4	1	3	9
6	3	4	9	2	1	7	5	8
5	9	7	1	8	2	3	6	4
3	1	8	4	6	9	5	2	7
4	2	6	3	7	5	9	8	1
2	6	9	5	4	7	8	1	3
7	4	3	8	1	6	2	9	5
1	8	5	2	9	3	6	7	4

ALPHA TRIANGLE
N, An, Ran, Near, Raven, Vernal, Unravel.

GO FIGURE
Easy
5 + 4 + 1 + 5 = 15
2 x 4 + 5 + 3 = 16
Medium
5 + 4 + 8 + 2 = 30
Hard

LOOP

KAKURO

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 # Tom makes way for Zendaya Tom Holland stepped aside politely as fans milled around fellow 'Spider-Man: No Way Home' co-star Zendaya during their night out in London

HIT THE ROAD

Nushrratt Bharuccha who is known for her films like Pyaar Ka Punchnama series and Sonu Ke Titu Ki Sweety, has now found herself a new passion and that is off-roading (Offroading is the activity of driving or riding in a vehicle on unpaved surfaces such as sand, gravel, riverbeds, mud, snow, rocks etc). In an exclusive interview with ETimes, Nushrratt reveals what got her into it.

She says, "I really got bored of fitness regimes and what's in your bag etc kind of things and I really wanted to do something new (laughs). I didn't even know the meaning of the term off-roading, I didn't even know how to drive till a few months ago. I learnt how to drive and I bought myself an SUV and once I got that, my friends asked me if you have an SUV, how come you never went off-roading? So I went to a school for it and they really tried hard to make me understand things."

The actress also revealed that it was her director Raaj Shaandilya (of Dream Girl fame) who got her hooked on to an SUV. She said, "So he had a Thar that he wasn't driving and I just wanted to drive it. So he told me to drive it for a few days. So after my Selfiee shoot, I went to his house and drove the car to my place and I fell in love with the car. And when I returned the car to him, I told him I'm buying the car. In two months, I had it! ..

The actress jokingly says that after her off-roading experience she is well prepared to drive the cars on the roads of Mumbai.

— ETimes

SANDALWOOD SHOTS

Y MAHESWARA REDDY

Aparupa trailer out

Director Mahesh Babu has announced that his latest movie Aparupa is ready for release on July 14. A function was held at Kalavidara Sangha, Chamarajpet, for the release of the movie's trailer. Dolly Dhananjay was the chief guest at the function. "Mahesh Babu has made several hit films. I wish him good luck and expect Aparupa too to become a mega hit. I appreciate the lead pair – Sughosh and Hritika – in this movie, who have good screen presence. I welcome them to Sandalwood," said Dhananjay.

Thanking Dhananjay for his support, Mahesh Babu said that most of his movies are based on romance. "Aparupa has no villain. The hero and heroine are the villains too. It shows what happens if youngsters are ruled by ego. I do not want to reveal more at this juncture. I appeal to moviegoers to encourage the debutants," said Mahesh. Sughosh appealed to movie goers to support the movie. "It has become tough for newcomers to survive in Sandalwood," he said.

Barbarika on screen

The name of Barbarika is familiar to those who know the Mahabharata. Barbarika is an unsung hero of the epic. Now a movie– Barbarika – is being made in Kannada. Its shooting wrapped up at Kanteerava Studios on Saturday.

Shandilya, who debuted as a director in Sandalwood with Preethige Ibbaru, has helmed Barbarika. The movie is about how education and health are important for people. "The movie also narrates how financial problems compelled a youth to become a murder and later graduate as a supari killer. I am very happy with the performance of the hero and heroine in this movie. I want to thank and to be grateful to the producer for providing all facilities during the shooting. There is a link between the hero and Barabarika, an unsung hero of Mahabharata," said Shandilya. P Janardhan is bankrolling the movie under Janardhana Movies banner. Its shooting was held in Bengaluru for more than 40 days. He said Skanda Ashok plays the lead while Siri Raj is paired opposite him. Jothe Jotheyali fame BM Venkatesh plays a social worker in the movie. Bala Rajwadi, Yamuna Srinidhi, Chirag, Madiwalayya, Kavya Prakash, and Shailesh are the cast in the movie.

premium SUV features available at ₹7.99 lakh*

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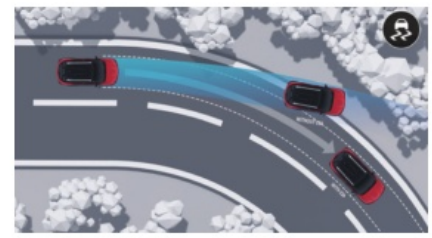

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